

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01

PRS-01 L-02 RSR-01 /070 W
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R 260955 E APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 783

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

CINCPAC

DAO SAIGON

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: NA/ A

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: RVN TPJMC DELEGATION LETTER TO ICCS CHAIRMAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 6670 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF APRIL 23 LETTER FROM GENERAL THUAN, CHIEF OF RVN DELEGATION TO FPJMC, ADDRESSED TO GENERAL DHARSONO, INDODEL CHIEF AND CURRENT ICCS CHAIRMAN. THIS IS SECOND WEEKLY LETTER OF THIS KIND, SPELLING OUT RVN POSITIONS ON TPJMC ISSUES. KEY POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. LETTER AGAIN NOTES ABSENCE OF GENERAL TRA, WHICH HAS BEEN CONSTANT THEME OF RVN DEL RECENTLY, APD IN APRIL 23 LETTER RELATES ABSENCE TO PRISONER ISSUE: " WE FEAR THAT THE LONG ABSENCE OF THE CHIEF OF DELEGATION OF THE PRGRSVN, COUPLED WITH DEPUTY CHIEF WHO EITHER LACKS GOODWILL OR WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAPTURED PER-

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SONNEL, AND THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS PERPETRATED BY THE PRGRSVN, WILL CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE RELEASE OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAPTURED PERSONNEL, EVEN IF THE RVN SIDE SHOULD DECIDE TO UNILATERALLY AND SERIOUSLY CARRY OUT THE RELEASE."

3. ALSO NOTED IS THE CONTINUING PRESSURE OF THE PRG TO GIVE THE ISSUE OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PRISONERS TOP PRIORITY IN PREFERENCE TO OTHER AGENDA ITEMS AND TO REFUSE TO DISCUSS OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING DEPLOYMENT. RVN AGAIN: 1) REGISTERS ITS REFUSAL TO LINK THE MATTER OF THE 410 ARVN POWS STILL HELD BY THE PRG WITH CIVILIAN DETAINEES OR ANY OTHER QUESTION, AND ITS CONTINUED INSISTENCE THAT THEY BE RELEASED WITHOUT CONDITIONS; 2) RESTATES ITS REFUSAL TO TURN THE 241 PW RALLIERS NOW IN RVN BACK TO THE PRG.

4. RE THE 410, RVN LETTER BREAKS NEW GROUND BY REOPENING THE ISSUE OF POSSIBLE RED CROSS VISITS: " WE FEAR FOR THE LIVES OF THE 410. . . WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE STILL BEING DETAINED, AND AT WHAT PLACE, AND WHETHER THEY ARE UNDER ANY KIND OF PRESSURE, BECAUSE THE PRGRSVN NOT ONLY IS STILL REFUSING TO RELEASE THEM BUT ALSO HAS INTENTIONALLY DELAYED AND AVOIDED DISCUSSING THEIR RELEASE. . . WE HAVE MANY TIMES EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO INVITE THE CANADIAN AND HUNGARIAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES, ON BEHALF OF THE RVN, TO MAKE A VISIT TO THESE 410 CAPTURED MILITARY PERSONNEL, AS STIPULATED IN ARTICLE 9 (A) OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE POWS, BUT THE OTHER SIDE HAS ALWAYS REFUSED AND REJECTED OUR REQUESTS."

5. RVN ALSO CHARGES PRG MISTREATMENT OF DETAINEES. CITING WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTATION, RVN ASSERTS THAT " THE OTHER SIDE FAILED TO SERIOUSLY COMPLY (OR DID NOT COMPLY AT ALL) WITH THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTION ON POW, AS WELL AS ARTICLE 8 (A) OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE POW." LETTER GOES ON TO CHARGE MISTREATMENT, TORTURE LEADING IN SOME CASES TO DEATH, FORCED LABOR AND COMBAT, AND INADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING, HOUSING, AND MEDICAL CARE.

6. COMMENT: APRIL 23 LETTER, WHILE ONCE AGAIN STOPPING SHORT OF REQUESTING SPECIFIC ICCS ACTIONS, IS A COGENT AND GENERALLY PERSUASIVE STATEMENT OF RVN POSITIONS AND CONCERNS ON PRISONER AND OTHER ISSUES. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED BY AIRGRAM.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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